

REMARKS

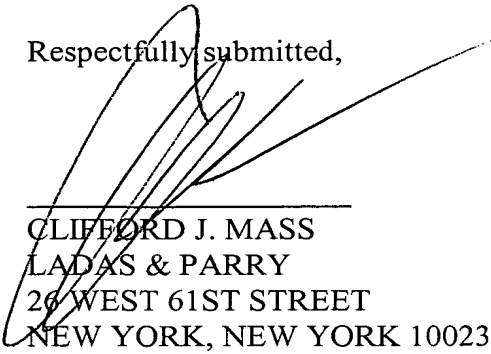
The Official Action of November 10, 2004 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The courtesy of Examiner Vanaman in conducting a telephone interview with the undersigned on December 2, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged. In the interview, the undersigned discussed with the Examiner possible amendments to the claims that might overcome the prior art rejections of record, which are all based upon the Porsche et al reference in combination with the other references cited at paragraphs 3-5 of the Official Action. The present amendment to claim 22 is made to remove the bases for these rejections, as discussed below. Support for the amendment appears in the specification as filed at, for example, Fig. 7 (as viewed in combination with Fig. 3) and the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10.

As discussed in the interview, Porsche et al, contains parallelogram linkages that allow pivotal movement at both their upper and lower ends. The amendment to the claims restricts all pivotal movement between the frame means, the attachment means and the rear ski member to the longitudinally spaced locations on the rear ski member. Accordingly, the amendment is respectfully considered to exclude the parallelogram linkages described in Porsche et al since, as noted by the Examiner, Porsche elements 6 and 7 may themselves pivot with respect to the frame.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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